

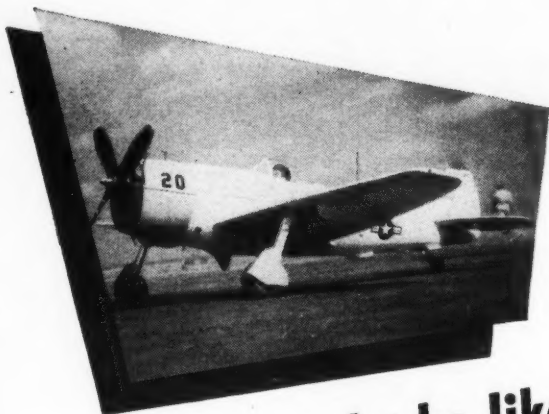
RED

MAY 1949
VOL. 1 NO. 7

10¢

D RAGON





looks like the real
thing, doesn't it?

Actually it's a model—a miniature copy of one of America's best known airplanes. Modelplane building and flying is lots of fun—you learn about aviation, how to design, how to adjust and how to get the most out of your motors—be they rubber bands or tiny gasoline or diesel engines.

To keep up on the latest in aviation and get the lowdown on model airplane activity read **AIR TRAILS** each month—it's followed by more modelers and flyers than any other publication in the world!

25¢ at your newsstand
get your copy today!



ALL
WELL K
NAMED
CYRAN
UNTIL
Mars
Vol. 1, No. 7
Stobbs, Nev
story, Thom
ments. All cor
ICATIONS, I
mitted must
out the pub
any real per

RED DRAGON

MEETS

CYRANO DE BERGERAC



ALTHOUGH THE PLAY CYRANO DE BERGERAC IS VERY WELL KNOWN, LESS WELL KNOWN IS THE FACT ROSTAND WROTE HIS PLAY ABOUT A REAL MAN NAMED CYRANO....AND THAT THE REAL MAN WROTE A BOOK CALLED..... CYRANO'S TRIP TO THE MOON....RED DRAGON DIDN'T KNOW THIS, NOT UNTIL LAOTSE SHOWED HIM.... THE HARD WAY!

(Mancely)

Vol. 1; No. 7; May, 1949. RED DRAGON COMICS is published quarterly by Street & Smith Publications, Inc., 775 Lidgerwood Ave., Elizabeth, New Jersey. Allen L. Grammer, Chairman of the Board, Gerald H. Smith, President; Henry W. Rolston, Vice President and Secretary, Thomas H. Kaiser, Treasurer. Copyright, 1949, in U. S. A. and Great Britain by Street & Smith Publications, Inc. Single copy 10 cents. All correspondence in reference to subscriptions and all money for subscriptions should be addressed to STREET & SMITH PUBLICATIONS, INC., P.O. Box 494, Elizabeth, N. J. We cannot accept responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or artwork. Any material submitted must include return postage. The editorial contents of this magazine are protected by copyright and cannot be reprinted without the publishers' permission. All fictional characters mentioned in this magazine are fictitious. Any similarity in name or character to any real person is coincidental. Printed in the U. S. A.



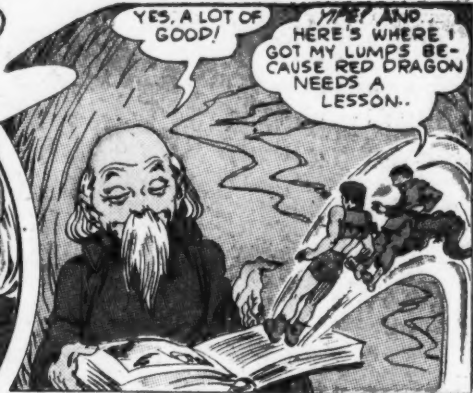
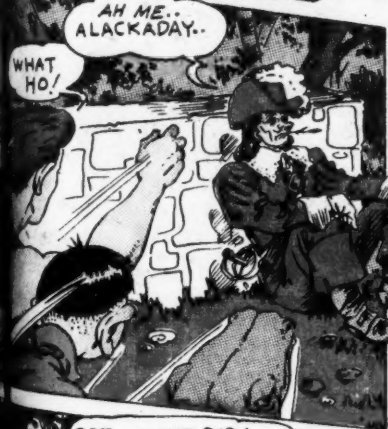
LATER...
WITH LAO TSE,
THE SAGE AND MENTOR
OF RED DRAGON...

HOW DID YOU
ENJOY THE PLAY
MY SONS?

I LIKED CYRANO
... BUT I'M AFRAID RED
DRAGON DIDN'T



I SEE, CYRANO. YOU KNOW, WAS A REAL MAN. HE WROTE MANY BOOKS. ONE OF HIS MOST INTERESTING IS THIS ONE. I THINK IT WOULD DO YOU SOME GOOD TO ENTER THIS STORY..





I HAD MEANT TO HAVE MY VARLETS TAKE CARE OF YOU RATHER THAN SOIL MY SWORD ... BUT SINCE YOU WOULD HAVE IT THIS WAY!

TCHA! IT WOULD BE MURDER. PUT THAT STICKER AWAY BEFORE I TROUNCE YOU WITH IT!



WHAT A CHURL! HE CAN'T EVEN HOLD A SWORD PROPERLY!

ENOUGH OF YOUR STUPIDITY HERE COME MY MEN!



AH! THIS SHOULD TRY MY METAL I NEED THAT LITTLE PIN, GIVE IT TO ME. THIS SHOULD WORK UP AN APPETITE FOR BREAKFAST!

YOU'LL NEVER EAT AGAIN, MY BIG NOSED MONSTER!



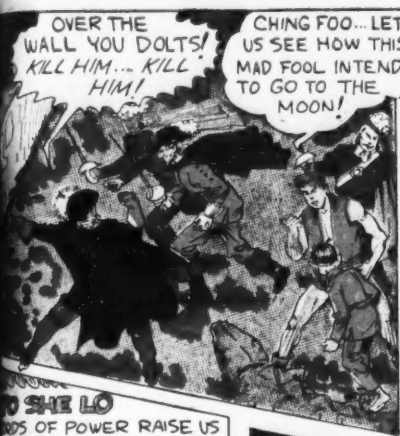
HOLD YOUR INFANTILE MOUTH LEST I REALLY LOSE MY TEMPER!

CYRANO..EVEN YOU CAN'T FIGHT OFF ALL THOSE MEN...THEY'LL KILL YOU!



HE IS NUTS!

THEY'LL NEVER GET ME, I'M GETTING BORED WITH THE EARTH! I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO TAKE A TRIP TO THE MOON FOR A LONG TIME I THINK NOW IS THE TIME!



OVER THE WALL YOU DOLTS!
KILL HIM... KILL HIM!

CHING FOO... LET US SEE HOW THIS MAD FOOL INTENDS TO GO TO THE MOON!



WHAT'S MAKING THE BOX RISE?
LET'S GO SEE!



HOW NOW? AM I TO HAVE COMPANY ON MY TRIP TO THE MOON?

WHY NOT? CYRANO, HOW ARE YOU MAKING THAT BOX FLY THROUGH THE AIR?



I'M GLAD YOU ASKED. IT'S MY OWN INVENTION. THIS IS A METAL BOX THAT I MADE. I THROW A MAGNET AHEAD OF IT. THE MAGNET ATTRACTS THE BOX AND PULLS IT!



THEN ONCE THE BOX CATCHES UP TO THE MAGNET, I THROW THE MAGNET AGAIN!

OH NO... THAT'S THE CRAZIEST IDEA I EVER HEARD OF!





WHAT ARE THOSE LITTLE BOTTLES AT YOUR BELT, CYRANO?

AH THESE ARE A PRECAUTION IN CASE MY MAGNET GETS AWAY I NEED SOME THING ELSE TO CARRY ME UP THROUGH THE AIR.



WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR BOTTLES... HELIUM?

HELIUM? I KNOW NOT WHAT THAT IS. NO, MY BOTTLES HOLD DEW!



DEW? YOU MEAN THE WATER ON THE GRASS IN THE MORNING?

OF COURSE. YOU SEE HOW MY IDEA WORKS??



THAT'S THE MOST RIDICULOUS THING I EVER HEARD OF!

BUT... IT HAS WORKED! BE-HOLD WE ARE ON LUNA... THE MOON... QUEEN OF THE SKY!



CONFIDENTIALLY, NO!

THINK A MOMENT WHERE DOES DEW COM FROM? THE SKY... WHERE DOES IT GO BACK TO?... BACK UP TO THE SKY DRAWN UP BY THE ATTRACTION OF THE SUN. JUST SO, I USE THE DEW TO LIFT ME!



OFFF

YIPE!

MOON... WE GREET YOU...

CRASH

GREETINGS!

WHO SAID THAT?



NO... THIS IS THE MOST RIDICULOUS THING I EVER SAW! MEN WHO STAND ON THEIR FEET...
NO NO HOW COMICAL!

IMPOLITE ISN'T HE. SHALL I BE DIPLOMATIC?



ASYLUM? HE THINKS WE'RE CRAZY!

THINK? I KNOW IT. WHO BUT AN EARTHATIC WOULD THINK OF WALKING ON ANYTHING BUT THEIR HANDS, THE WAY A MAN SHOULD!



WELL NOW. WHO ARE YOU?

WE COME FROM THE EARTH!



PLEASE NO MORE OF YOUR DIPLOMACY, CYRANO. IT GOT US CHASED OFF THE EARTH! LET'S STAY ON THE MOON AWHILE...



WHAT EARTHATIC ASYLUM DID YOU EARTHIES ESCAPE FROM?

I THINK I HAVE BEEN PATIENT LONG ENOUGH!

HELP... MOON MEN TO MY AID... HELP!



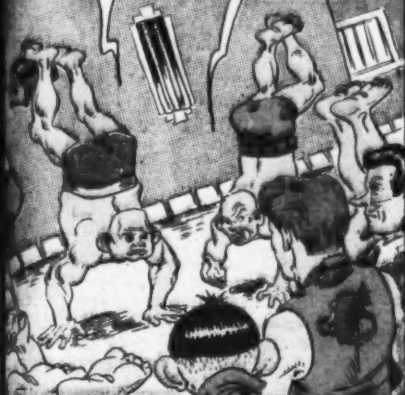


WHIMMM... WALKING
SIDE DOWN: THEY
ALLY ARE IN A BAD
AREN'T THEY?

YES, DOCTOR.
I HOPE YOU CAN
DO SOMETHING FOR
THEM!

PERHAPS WE CAN GET THEM OUT OF THE EARTH'S
INFLUENCE AND MAKE THEM NORMAL
YOU KNOW SLEEPING WHERE THE
EARTH IS OVER YOU CAN
MAKE YOU MAD!

NO... THAT
HAPPENS IF THE
MOON SHINES ON
YOU... I MEAN THE
SUPERSTITION SAYS
THAT...



I'M GLAD TO
SEE YOU CAN SMILE
ABOUT OUR PLIGHT!

IT SERVES US RIGHT
FOR CALLING MADMEN
LUNATICS. LUNA... MOON...
THEY JUST REVERSE
IT.



THIS IS TOO MUCH.
IT IS LIKE BEING IN
A ZOO!

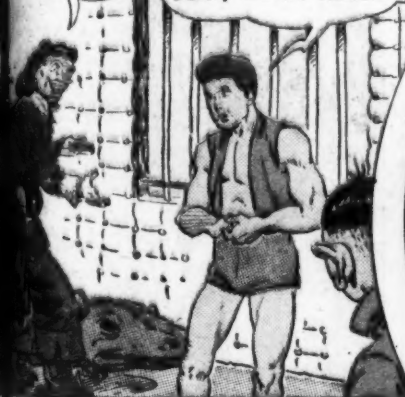
RED DRAGON... DO
YOU THINK YOUR
MAGIC POWERS WILL
WORK IN THIS TOPSY
TURVY WORLD?

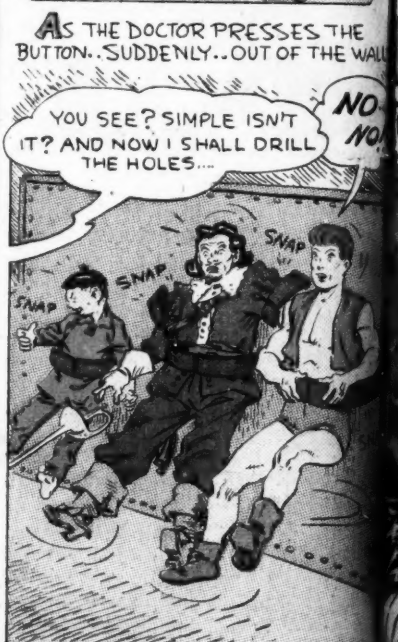
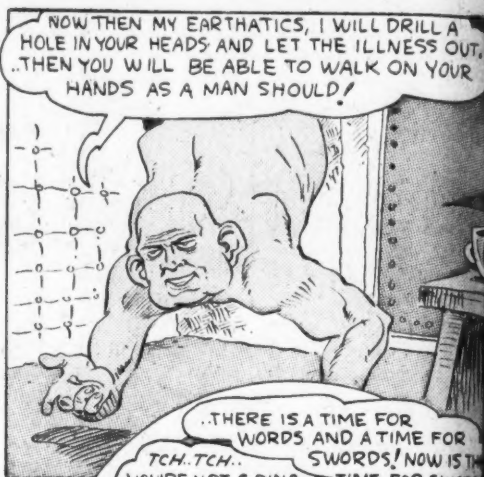
YOU USE
MAGIC?

YES... BUT I'M ALMOST AFRAID
TO TRY... SUPPOSE MY POWERS
DON'T WORK HERE...

PO SHI LO
...WORDS OF POWER,
LIFT US OUT THAT I MAY
MAKE THESE FOOLS COWER!

!ULP!... IT'S NOT
WORKING... WE'RE
NOT RISING IN
THE AIR!





AND THAT MOON-
MAN SAID THAT UP
WAS DOWN AND
DOWN WAS UP.

POW! SHE LO
... WORDS OF POWER
PRESS ME DOWN!

IT
WORKED!

2GASP: YEAH... BUT THIS BAND IS HOLDING ME... WAIT, WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE... IF I SAY RELEASE ME, IT'LL HOLD ME...

...HOLD ME
TIGHT... DON'T FALL
OFF.

THIS IS
FANTASTIC!

USING HIS MAGIC BACKWARDS, RED
DRAGON RELEASES HIS FRIENDS...

HELP!

...THE
EARTHATHICS ARE
LOOSE...
...HELP!

NOW THEN...WHO WAS
GOING TO DRILL A HOLE
IN WHO?



LOOK AT HIM GO!

YOU KNOW... I THINK I PREFER THE EARTH TO THIS TOSPY TURVY WORLD!



AHA! THEY EXPECT TO BLUDGEON US!

LET'S GO... I'M TIRED OF BEING PUSHED AROUND. CYRANO... LOOK OUT FOR KOMODO'S TAIL!



THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

C'MON... HURRY UP... I HEAR MORE OF THEM ARRIVING...



I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO MY DEATH FIGHTING! I WONDER HOW MANY OF THAT ARMY I CAN KILL BEFORE...

THERE'LL BE NO KILLING... AFTER ALL AS FAR AS THESE MOONMEN ARE CONCERNED, WE ARE MADMEN. COME... PO SHE LO...



...TAKE US DOWN... DOWN... TILL WE ARE BACK ON EARTH... DOWN... I SAY!

HERE WE GO AGAIN

THE DRAGON'S MAGIC TAKES THEM
ACROSS THE VOID BACK TO EARTH.

WOOSH!
IT WAS TOO
FAST A TRIP... IT
TOOK MY BREATH
AWAY!

OH OH. HERE COMES
SOMEBODY TO REALLY
TAKE YOUR BREATH.
... LOOK!

NOW CYRANO... I
KNEW IF I WAITED, YOU
WOULD RETURN... NOW I
WILL FINISH YOU
!!!

HOLA! YOU ALWAYS
DID FIGHT MORE WITH
YOUR MOUTH THAN
YOUR SWORD!

CYRANO!
... SHALL I HELP
YOU WITH MY MAGIC?

NO, THANK YOU... THAT
WOULD SPOIL MY FUN... AFTER
ALL, I AM CYRANO DE BERGERAC.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF ANYTHING
LESS THAN A REGIMENT!

YOU KNOW I THINK HE MAY
BE ABLE TO DO IT, AT THAT!

THE FOOL...
HE'LL BE
KILLED!

BUT AS THEY WATCH...

NOW MY SOFT
BELLIED FOR OUT WITH
YOUR SWORD SO I MAY
SPLIT YOU!





ANY MAN TAKEN OUT OF HIS NORMAL SURROUNDINGS WILL SEEM STRANGE AND MAYHAP INSANE...

LIKE THOSE MOONMEN ASSUMED WE WERE NUTS JUST BECAUSE WE WERE DIFFERENT!



BUT EVEN SO, SOME OF CYRANO'S IDEAS WERE PRETTY WHACKY! THAT TRIP TO THE MOON... THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE!

HAVE YOU NOT BENEFITED FROM YOUR TRIP MORE THAN THAT MY SON? REMEMBER CYRANO WROTE CENTURIES AGO...



The Magic Tassel

'THE RIGHT DOOR...'



THE MAGIC TASSEL..... AND WHAT MAGIC IT HAD.... DONNY FINDS OUT THAT SOME OF THE SECRETS OF THE PAST ARE UNFOLDED AS HE DREAMS WHILE HE HOLDS ONTO A SINGLE THREAD OF THE TASSEL OF WOVEN FATES..... HE EVEN FINDS OUT..... BUT WAIT AND SEE...

Powell
FEATURED



**DARE NOT LOSE....THE DOOR
OPENS....THE RACE IS ABOUT
TO BEGIN! I HOPE YOU BRING
ME LUCK, LITTLE ONE WHO
SPEAKS ODDLY! BRING
GAIUS LUCK!**

**SURE...
I HOPE
YOU
WIN!**

**MAYHAP YOU WILL BRING ME LUCK!
COME, BE MY MASCOT! I'LL SEE
THAT YOU CAN WATCH....PERHAPS
YOU'LL SEE ME BEAT THE
EMPEROR'S
CHARIOT!**

**SEE!
YOU MEAN
I CAN SEE
A REAL
CHARIOT
RACE?**



**IT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN....I MUST WIN....
I MUST! SHE WILL BE LOST IF
I DON'T.... HERE, LAD....WAIT
FOR ME HERE!**

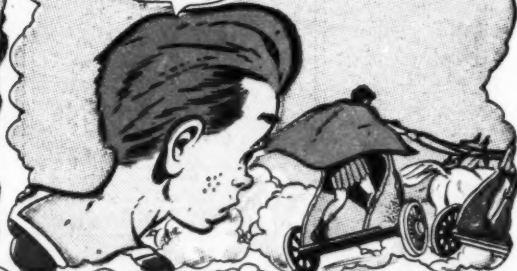
**I WILL! I HOPE
YOU WIN!**



**LET THE RACE
BEGIN!**

**AVE
CAESER!**

**JEEPERS.....I NEVER KNEW THESE
THINGS WERE SO DANGEROUS! IF
ONE OF THESE CHARIOTS
TURN OVER THE
DRIVER WILL BE
KILLED!**



**GULP....LIKE
THAT!**

**ON....GET ON, MY FOUR FOOTED
FRIENDS.....EMULATE
PEGASUS!**





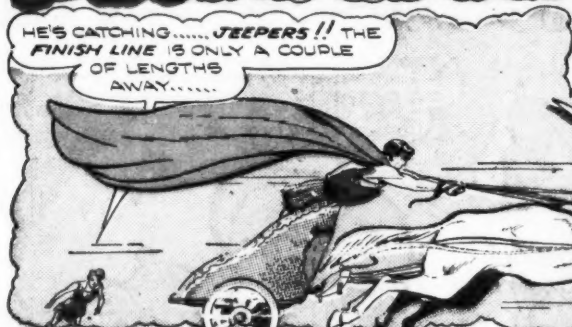
FOOEEY! THAT DRIVER DID THAT
DELIBERATELY.... I WONDER IF
GAIUS CAN GET BACK
IN CONTROL....



GOOD! I'M GLAD THE PURPLE GUY
LOST CONTROL, JUST BECAUSE
HE TRIED TO CUT
GAIUS OFF!



DOLT! IDIOT! OOPS... SO THAT
THAT'S THE
LAST RACE
YOU'LL
EVER
RUN!
OOPS... SO THAT
WAS THE EMPEROR
CHARIOTEER THAT
PLAYED DIRTY...



HE'S CATCHING..... JEEPERS!! THE
FINISH LINE IS ONLY A COUPLE
OF LENGTHS
AWAY.....



YAY! HE
MADE IT!

GAIUS! COME
TO ME!



YOU DISPLEASE ME, GAIUS! YOU KNOW
THAT YOU COULD NOT HAVE BEATEN
MY CHARIOT FAIRLY!
YOU CHEATED!

IMPERIAL
HIGHNESS!
THAT IS NOT
SO... YOUR
CHARIOTEER

YOU DARE TO DISPUTE WITH ME?!
YOUR EMPEROR'S GUARDS!
TO THE DUNGEONS!

BUT
WHAT ABOUT
THE TEN THOUSAND
DINARS?

TEN THOUSAND DINARS? YOUR REWARD WILL
BE TEN THOUSAND DEATHS!
TO THE DUNGEON WHILE
I DECIDE YOUR
FATE!

OH OH....
NOW GAIUS IS
IN A JAM... I
BETTER GO ALONG
WITH HIM!

WELL, LAD, YOU BROUGHT ME LUCK..... I
WON THE RACE.... FOR ALL THE GOOD IT
DID ME. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER
THAN TO THINK I COULD BEAT
NERO'S CHARIOT, AND
NOT SUFFER!

SILENCE FOOL! YOU MIGHT HAVE
ESCAPED WITH YOUR LIFE, IF YOU
HAD APOLOGIZED!

GAIUS.... IF YOU
COULD ESCAPE,
WOULD YOU?

WOULD I? BUT WHAT
CHANCE IS THERE?
ONCE YOU HAVE
DISPLEASED NERO
YOU ARE AS GOOD
AS DEAD!

EASY DOES IT....
NOW! GAIUS!
RUN!

RUN? THE LAD HAS
LOST HIS
SENSES.....

HA? I SEE.....
GOOD WORK, LAD....
BUT HURRY....

IF I CAN DUCK DOWN
BETWEEN THEM
MAYBE I CAN....

HURRY... FOR NOW
THEY'LL KILL YOU
TOO....

I'M HURRYING
ALL RIGHT... BUT
WHERE CAN WE
GO?

MY BELOVED MUST BE WARNED TO FLEE
FOR IT WOULD BE LIKE NERO TO VENT
HIS RAGE ON HER!
HURRY... DOWN
THIS AISLE....

HERE THEY
COME... THEY FINALLY
BROKE THAT
SPEAR...

MAYBE WE CAN
MINGLE IN WITH
THE CROWD.

LUCKILY WE DON'T HAVE FAR
TO GO! SHE LIVES BUT
AROUND THE
CORNER!

HO! HAST SEEN TWO
PEOPLE, A MAN AND
A BOY RUNNING?

NOR HIDE NOR
HAIR OF ANY
SUCH HAVE I
SEEN!

AROUND THE CORNER....

CRESSIDA! LEAVE YOUR POSSESSIONS
AND PREPARE FOR FLIGHT! WE
ARE LOST! I HAVE INCURRED
NERO'S DISPLEASURE!

LATE! TOO
LATE!

NERO KNEW OF OUR LOVE....
THESE CENTURIONS JUST
ARRIVED....

WE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE, BUT
I'M SURE HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS
WILL BE PLEASED! COME, TO
THE ARENA!

O FLEE
VENT
HEY
FINALLY
THAT
AR...
ONE
TO
LATE
GAL
TOO
LATE
E, BUT
ESS

IN THE ARENA, BEFORE NERO, EMPEROR OF THE WORLD.....

LET ANYONE SAY THAT I AM NOT A MARITABLE SOUL, LET MY DECISION BE KNOWN! I HAVE THREE TASKS FOR YOU GAULS.... IF YOU OVERCOME THEM, YOU AND CRESSIDA WILL BE FREED.... ON MY HONOR!!



WHICH I DOUBT, YOU SHOULD WIN AGAINST HIM, YOU WILL THEN FIGHT BRUNO WITH HIS NET AND TRIDENT....



THAT IS WORSE, MUCH WORSE... HE HAS NEVER BEEN DEFEATED... NOT IN OVER A HUNDRED FIGHTS....

HOW CAN YOU FIGHT ONE OF THESE LITTLE MONSTERS? THEY NEVER COME CLOSE....



NOT ONLY WILL YOU BE FREED BUT I WILL MAKE YOU RICH!! FOR YOUR FIRST FIGHT, YOU WILL ENGAGE A SLINGSHOT ARTIST FROM THE BALEARIC ISLES....



OH NO!!... NOT ONE OF THOSE FIENDS!



AND THE LAST TEST... THE THIRD... HO HO... THAT WILL BE THE TEST OF THE TWO DOORS....



YOUR HIGHNESS, CLEMENCY... NOT THAT... OH! NOT THAT...

LET THE TESTS BEGIN!

WHY IS THIS LITTLE GUY SO DANGEROUS?

YOU MUST BE A STRANGER.... SEE THAT STONE IN HIS SLING? HE CAN BREAK ARMOR WITH THAT IF IT HITS SQUARELY! HOLD.... HE THROWS....





THE ONLY WAY TO WIN IS TO FEINT THE LITTLE MAN INTO USING ALL HIS STONES THEN HE CAN BE ATTACKED CLOSELY.... BUT WHY IS GAIUS COMING CLOSE?

MAYBE GAIUS HAS AN IDEA...



THE SUN CASTS LONG SHADOWS AS THE EERIE BATTLE GOES ON..... I DON'T GET IT! GAIUS IS FORCING HIMSELF TO FACE THE SUN... IT'LL BLIND HIM....

HOLD... I THINK....



SEE.... GAIUS IS USING THE SUN AGAINST.... GOOD.... OH GOOD.... NOW PERHAPS!

IS IT GOING TO WORK?

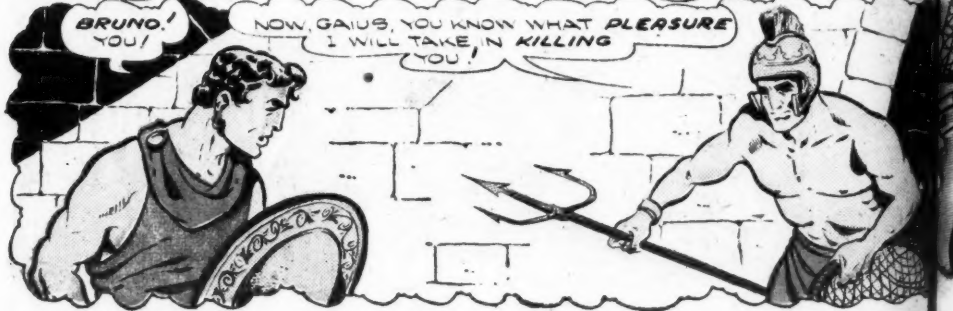


OEE, THESE ARE CRUEL TIMES.... I DON'T THINK I'LL LOOK.... CRESSIDA.... TELL ME WHEN IT IS OVER!



HEY.... HERE COMES THE NET AND TRIDENT MAN, DOESN'T GAIUS EVEN GET A REST?

NOT TILL HE WINS OR DIES!



BRUNO! YOU!

NOW, GAIUS, YOU KNOW WHAT PLEASURE I WILL TAKE, IN KILLING YOU!

ONLY NERO WOULD THINK OF THIS.....
 YOU SEE.... BRUNO LOVES
 ME TOO.... ALTHOUGH
 HE KNOWS I
 LOVE HIM
 NOT....

THAT
 MAKES EVERY-
 THING JUST DANDY....
 AND EVEN IF GAIUS
 WINS THIS ONE...HE STILL
 HAS THE DOORS....WHAT
 ARE THEY?

ONE OF NERO'S IDEAS... YOU SEE...THERE
 ARE TWO DOORS OVER AT THE FAR SIDE
 OF THE ARENA...I WILL
 BE BEHIND ONE...
 AND A TIGER
 BEHIND THE
 OTHER...

THE
 LADY OR THE
 TIGER... IF HE OPENS
 YOUR DOOR...LIFE...IF
 HE OPENS THE TIGER'S
 DOOR...DEATH...

ANOTHER INCH
 AND I WOULD HAVE
 HAD YOU **SPLIT**
 IN TWO,
 BRUNO!!

I CAN'T WAIT
 TO **SPIT** YOU
 ON MY TRIDENT
 LIKE A
 HERRING!

THIS IS A FITTING PLACE
 FOR YOUR END BRUNO, ON
 THE SAND OF THE
 ARENA FLOOR....

NOT SO
 HASTY...FOR THE
 YOU WHO WILL
 DIE HERE...NOW!

YOU SWINE! YOU'VE
 BLINDED ME!

YES!...AND
 NOW I'LL KILL
 YOU!

NERO HAS PROMISED
 CRESSIDA TO ME IF
 I KILL YOU HERE....
 SHE IS
 MINE!

IF HE'D ONLY
 COME CLOSE.....
 BUT HE DOESN'T
 HAVE TO... HIS TRI-
 DENT IS LONG, HE CAN
 KILL ME AT A DISTANCE....
 MY EYES ARE CLEARING A
 BIT.... MAYBE.....

IT IS THE END... THE
VERY END.... NOW
AM I
DESOLATE....

WAIT.... HE'S TAKING ONE
LAST CHANCE... HE'S THROWING
HIS SWORD.... IF HE MISSES HE'S
COMPLETELY
DEFENCELESS!!

HE'S WON!
CRESSIDA,
LOOK! BRUNO
HAS LOST!

OH... GAUUS... BUT STILL
THERE REMAINS
THE WORST OF
ALL... THE DOORS!

HE'S WON.... BUT THE DOORS WILL GET
HIM.... THE FOOL.... IF HE COULD BUT
KNOW THAT THE LEFT DOOR IS THE
RIGHT DOOR.... THAT SHE WILL
WAIT HIM THERE.... BUT NO...
HE'LL TAKE THE WRONG
DOOR....

IF I COULD BUT
KNOW... WHICH
DOOR.... THE
RIGHT HAND
ONE?

IF THERE WAS
ONLY SOME WAY
I COULD TELL HIM
TO OPEN THE
LEFT DOOR....

NO! GAUUS! NOT THAT ONE... THE OTHER...
THE OTHER DOOR.... EVERYTHING'S
GETTING MISTY... THE
DREAM IS GOING...
NOW....

WHAT A PLACE FOR THE DREAM TO END!!
NOW I'LL NEVER KNOW IF HE HEARD ME... IF
HE OPENED THE RIGHT DOOR... BUT WAIT...
THIS IS A LONG THREAD WHICH MEANS HE
HAD A LONG LIFE.... SO HE MUST HAVE TAKEN
THE CORRECT DOOR! WHEN...
NOW I KNOW THE END OF
THE LADY OR THE TIGER..

SOME
BUSY
LATH
TOOL

Mario Nette



ALL OF US KNOW WHAT SANTA CLAUS DOES ON CHRISTMAS EVE, BUT DID YOU EVER WONDER WHAT HE DOES ON THE OTHER THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY FOUR DAYS IN THE YEAR?

...AND DID YOU EVER WONDER WHO HELPS HIM DO ALL THE WORK HE HAS TO DO?

HO HO... WHAT A WONDERFUL SET OF TOYS, WE'LL HAVE FOR GIRLS AND BOYS!

SANTA!
COME QUICKLY ONE OF THE TOOLS IS BROKEN... PRODUCTION IS BEING SLOWED DOWN AND HERE IT IS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS!

SANTA IS WATCHING SOME OF HIS HELPERS BUSY AT WORK WITH LATHES, AND POWER TOOLS OF ALL SORTS.





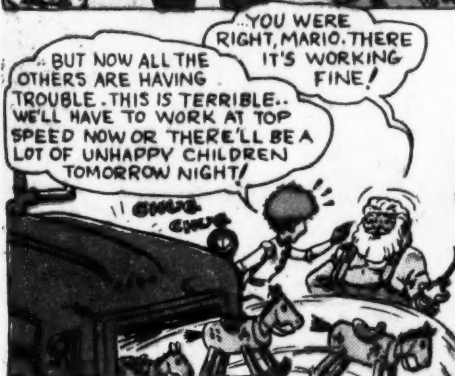
THIS WILL NEVER DO. ALL OF YOU GET BACK TO YOUR TASKS... I'LL HELP MARIO TO GET HIS MACHINE GOING!

~WOULDN'T YOU KNOW THIS WOULD HAPPEN AT THE LAST MINUTE??



I'LL TRY TIGHTENING THIS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS...

SANTA, HOW ABOUT OILING IT?... I DON'T THINK THIS MACHINE HAS BEEN OILED IN MONTHS!



BUT NOW ALL THE OTHERS ARE HAVING TROUBLE. THIS IS TERRIBLE... WE'LL HAVE TO WORK AT TOP SPEED NOW OR THERE'LL BE A LOT OF UNHAPPY CHILDREN TOMORROW NIGHT!

...YOU WERE RIGHT, MARIO. THERE IT'S WORKING FINE!

BY WORKING INTO THE WEE SMALL HOURS THE SHOP MANAGES TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME... BUT SANTA IS STILL BUSY... AND TIRED OUT.



...NOW I WILL BE JUST A TOY... JUST... A...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP... NOW YOU WILL HAVE A NEW JOB... MAKING SOME CHILD HAPPY!



WHOSH... I JUST FINISHED IN TIME... THERE'S DANCER AND PRANCER AND DONDER AND BLITZEN CALLING...



ALL RIGHT MY PRETTIES. I'M READY... I'M COMING... IT'S A LONG HARD RIDE WE HAVE AHEAD OF US TONIGHT!

NO DONDER... NO BLITZEN..
AWAY... LET'S LEAVE THE NORTH
POLE TILL BREAK OF DAY!

AND INSIDE SANTA'S HOUSE
FORGOTTEN IN THE RUSH... MARIO
WORKS ON...

SANTA! SANTA CLAUS! I'M ALL FINISHED.
TIME FOR YOU TO STRING ME SO I CAN BECOME
A TOY... SANTA!



SANTA!... HE'S GONE..
I FORGOT ABOUT ME... NOW
SOME LITTLE CHILD WON'T GET
ME IN HIS STOCKING.... I'D BETTER
HURRY... MAYBE I CAN CATCH UP
WITH SANTA.

ON HIS WAY
SOUTH, SANTA
STOPS OFF AT AN
IGLOO...

~THAT LIGHTENS MY BURDEN A
LITTLE... TIME FOR ME TO BE OFF
TO WARMER CLIMES.

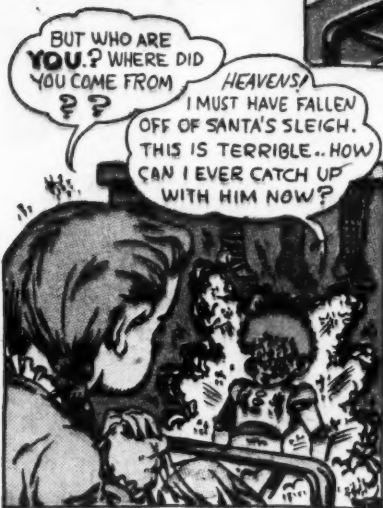


PUFF! PUFF!... THERE
HE IS... I MADE IT... BUT
I'M OUT OF BREATH...

SANTA!

PUFF!... IT'S NO USE... HE
CAN'T HEAR ME... I'M TOO OUT OF
BREATH... I'M TIRED TOO... NEXT STOP I'LL
TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED.









LUCKY FOR YOU THAT YOU ARE ACROSS THE ROOM. BUT YOU STILL GET BREAD AND WATER FOR DINNER!



HE LOOKED RIGHT AT YOU! WHY DIDN'T HE SEE YOU?

OH THAT'S QUITE CLEAR. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO BE TAKEN CARE OF. IS HE ALWAYS THAT WAY?



...THAT WAY?...NO..HE'S GENERALLY MUCH WORSE...OH GEE...IT USED TO BE SO NICE HERE BEFORE MRS. HAPPY WAS DEMOTED AND HE GOT HER JOB..

SHE'S NICE, EH?



SHE'S SWEET AND KIND....JUST LIKE A REAL MOTHER.

I SEE. I THINK, BEFORE I GO BACK TO THE NORTH POLE WHERE I BELONG, THAT I HAVE A LITTLE JOB TO ATTEND TO! NOW ALL OF YOU, GO TO SLEEP.



THIS PROBLEM NEEDS A LITTLE LOOKING INTO. I KNOW SANTA WOULDN'T LIKE THE WAY THIS PLACE IS BEING RUN.



I SEE. THEN THERE'LL BE ONE OF THOSE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES COMING HERE TOMORROW?

HMM... WHAT'S THIS?

THANKS FOR THE TIP.
I'LL SEE THAT THE LITTLE
GRATS ALL PRETEND TO
BE HAPPY WHEN THE
COMMITTEE GETS HERE!

I SEE!...
I GUESS I'LL HAVE
TO DO MY JOB
TOMORROW!

CHRISTMAS DAY!

~AND REMEMBER.. IF ONE OF YOU
SLIPS AND SAYS ANYTHING, THE PACK OF
YOU WILL SUFFER FOR IT... WHEN THIS
COMMITTEE GETS HERE I WANT ALL OF YOU
TO SMILE... BE HAPPY!



THAT'S ALL! BEAT IT. THE
PACK OF YOU... AND STAY OUT
OF MY WAY! I DON'T WANT TO
HEAR YOUR SHRILL VOICES YAPPIN'
EITHER!.. THAT'S ALL!



HERE THEY
COME, SIR.

..VERY WELL, BUT
WHOEVER THREW THAT
SNOWBALL WILL SUFFER
FOR IT LATER... NOW
SMILE... ALL OF YOU!



HOW DARE
YOU! WHO
DID THAT?

MR TATTER THWAITE,
...THE COMMITTEE
IS HERE!





I...I THOUGHT FOR A SECOND I SAW A LITTLE MARIONETTE BEHIND MR. TATTERTHWAITE... BUT... NO... IT MUST BE YOUR IMAGINATION, JUDY.



JUST A CHECK-UP TATTERTHWAITE, JUST WANT TO SEE THAT THE CHILDREN ARE BEING WELL CARED FOR...



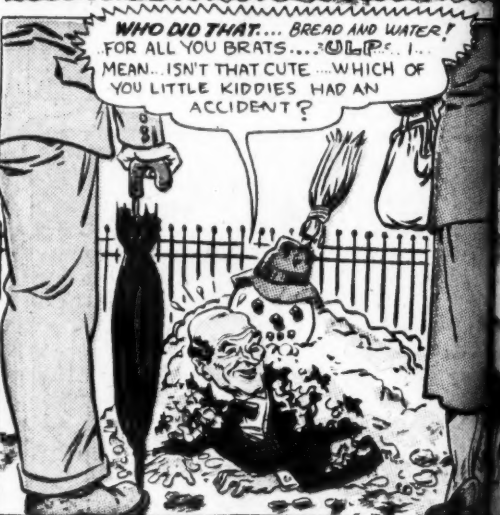
NEVER! THEY DO LOOK GAY... MY... I ALMOST ENVY THEM... CHILDHOOD WITH ITS LACK OF CARE... AH, LET'S GO LISTEN TO THEIR CAREFREE VOICES.



NOW IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO INSIDE I'LL SHOW YOU...



CHILDREN, SAY HELLO TO THESE NICE PEOPLE..



WHO DID THAT... BREAD AND WATER! FOR ALL YOU BRATS... OOPS! I MEAN... ISN'T THAT CUTE... WHICH OF YOU LITTLE KIDDIES HAD AN ACCIDENT?

CK-
WAITE,
SEE
ILD-
ING



N,
TO
E



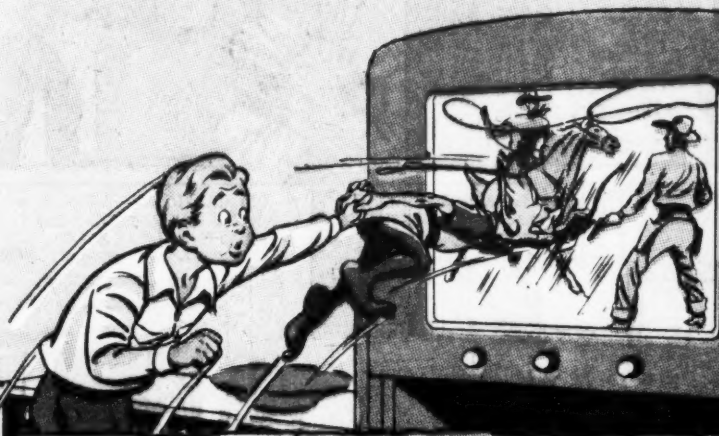
ASP:
UP... AH!





GNORMAN THE GNOME

in GNO GNOSENSE



WHEN BOBBY WOKE GNORMAN, THE GNOME, FROM HIS TWO HUNDRED YEAR NAP, HE COULDN'T KNOW THAT THE RESULTS WOULD BE ODD, TO SAY THE LEAST. THE ONE THING THAT GNORMAN CAN'T REALIZE IS THAT HIS TRUSTY MAGIC WAND IS MORE RUSTY THAN TRUSTY—

I GUESS THEY DIDN'T HAVE NEWSPAPERS WHEN YOU WENT TO SLEEP, GNORMAN.

WE HAD SOME THINGS LIKE THIS, BUT THEY WERE CALLED BROADSIDES AND A GNOME COULD HOLD ONE WITHOUT GETTING TIRED OUT!

BAH!

GEE, THIS SCIENCE LESSON ON TELEVISION IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND—AND I HAVE TO DO A COMPOSITION ON IT.

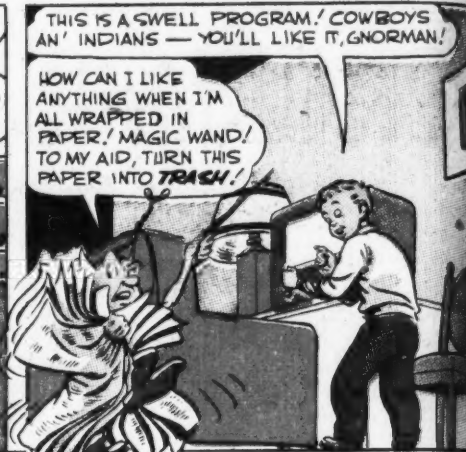
STRIKES—BOMBS—COLD WARS—WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THIS MODERN WORLD?





FIVE O'CLOCK, GNORMAN, TIME FOR MY FAVORITE SHOW ON TELEVISION. C'MON INSIDE, MOTHERS AT A MEETING.

FAH! THERE'S NOT A NOTE ABOUT WHAT GNOMES ARE DOING AND I'VE READ THIS COLUMN CALLED NEWS FROM ALL OVER. FINE THINGS!



THIS IS A SWELL PROGRAM. COWBOYS AN' INDIANS — YOU'LL LIKE IT, GNORMAN!

HOW CAN I LIKE ANYTHING WHEN I'M ALL WRAPPED IN PAPER! MAGIC WAND! TO MY AID, TURN THIS PAPER INTO TRASH!



THE PAPER'S GONE! YOUR WAND WORKED FOR A CHANGE!

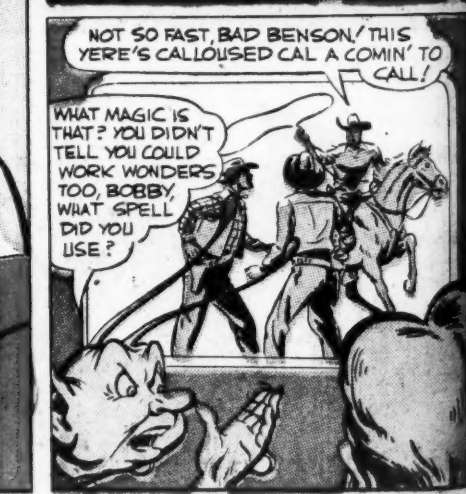


I'M ALL ITCHY — SPOTS — WHAT'S HAPPENED? THAT WAND! MAGIC! I SAID TRASH! NOT RASH!



THERE, THAT'S BETTER!

LOOK! IT'S BAD BENSON AND THERE'S GONNA BE A FIGHT. WATCH THIS! —



NOT SO FAST, BAD BENSON! THIS YERE'S CALLOUSED CAL A COMIN' TO CALL!

WHAT MAGIC IS THAT? YOU DIDN'T TELL YOU COULD WORK WONDERS TOO, BOBBY. WHAT SPELL DID YOU USE?

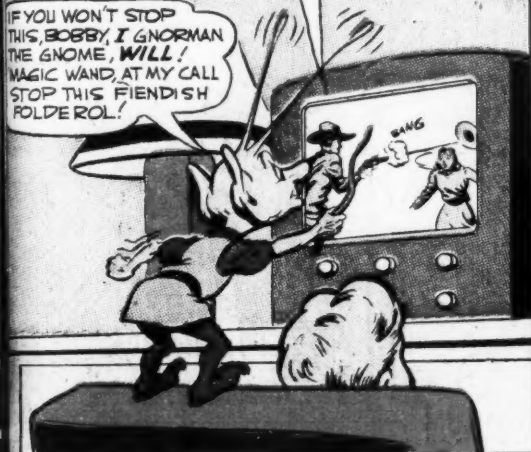
YORE A FOOL, CAL, YOU BETTER UNTANGLE ME FROM THIS YERE LARIAT OR I'LL TAKE A SHOT AT YON PURTY GAL!

HMMM—I SEE THE WIZARDS OF TODAY HAVE ADOPTED DIFFERENT CLOTHES. I MUST SAY THOSE TROUSERS LOOK EVEN GILLIER THAN OUR ROBES USED TO!



(JUST TO SHOW I AIN'T A'FOOLIN'—

IF YOU WON'T STOP THIS, BOBBY, I GNORMAN THE GNOME, **WILL!** MAGIC WAND AT MY CALL STOP THIS FIENDISH FOLDEROL!



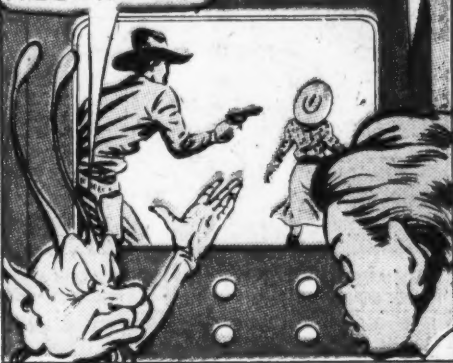
PERHAPS I WAS FOOLISH TO TRY AND HELP AT A DISTANCE. COME!—WE WILL JOIN THESE PEOPLE AND I'LL SHOW THEM WHAT GNORMAN CAN DO. MAGIC—TAKE US TO THIS SCENE OF HORROR!

GNORMAN WAIT — YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!



BOBBY! THAT FIEND OF A WIZARD IS ABOUT TO HURT THAT PRINCESS! YOU'D BETTER USE YOUR MAGIC TO AID HER!

BUT GNORMAN THIS ISN'T



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FOR SOME REASON BEYOND OUR CONTROL WE ARE TEMPORARILY OFF THE AIR. KEEP TUNED HOWEVER, FOR —

OOOH—NOW YOU DID IT, GNORMAN, YOUR MAGIC HAS SHUT OFF THE SHOW!

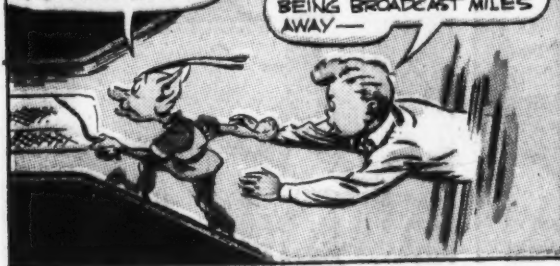


I UNDERSTAND THAT A PRINCESS IS IN DIRE DANGER! THE LEAST A RED BLOODED GNOME CAN DO IS COME TO THE RESCUE! I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, MY BOY! **COME!**

GULP—IF YOU'D ONLY LISTEN —



AHA! THEIR EVIL MAGIC HAS SHOWN THEM A WAY TO ESCAPE ME! BUT NEVER FEAR, I'LL TRACK THEM DOWN! MAGIC TAKE US ALONG THE ROUTE THAT THEY ESCAPED ON!



GNORMAN, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME, THIS IS A TELEVISION SET—THAT SCENE WE SAW IS BEING BROADCAST MILES AWAY—

THEY ARE BROADCAST AND SENT BACK ALONG THE TRACK OF THE TELEVISION BEAM



IF I WEREN'T AS BOLD AS A TIGER, I'D BE FRIGHTENED AT THIS POINT—BUT NO EVIL SPELL CAN INTIMIDATE GNORMAN, NO SIR—

I'M SCARED, DO YOU THINK YOUR MAGIC CAN MAKE US BIG AGAIN?

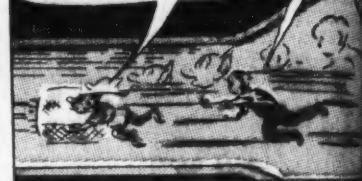
IT IS MUCH TO THE AMAZEMENT OF — GUYS AT A BAR!—WE'RE NOT BROADCASTING!—WE'RE RECEIVING! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!



GNORMAN'S MAGIC REDUCES THEM TO ELECTRON SIZE —

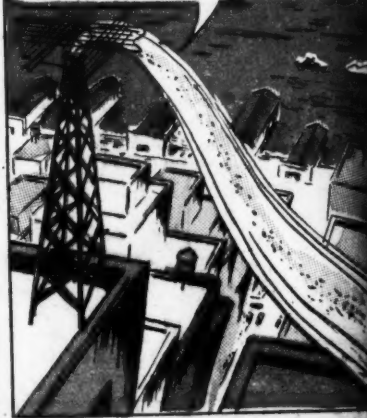
YOU SEE, THE PICTURE IS REDUCED TO ELECTRONS AND THEN —

ELECTRON, SHAMELECTRON! I KNOW MAGIC WHEN I SEE IT, OOOOPS, WE'RE GOING SOMEWHERE —



AT THE TELEVISION BROADCASTING BUILDING —

OOOOH—HERE'S THE BROADCASTING STATION—YOUR MAGIC MUST BE MAKING EVERYTHING WORK BACKWARDS —



SEE, BOBBY? NOT ALL THE MIGHT OF THE EVIL WIZARD COULD STOP ME FROM GETTING HERE—ALTHOUGH THAT WAS QUITE A BATTERING WE TOOK IN THAT INFERNAL MACHINE!

GASP—LOOK—





NO TIME FOR TALK —
THE CAMERA IS
WORKING AGAIN!

TO YOUR PLACES
EVERYONE!

DIRECTOR



RECKON I'LL HAVE TO DO WHUT
YOU SAY, BENSON, YOU GOT ME
OVER A BARREL!

THAT'S MORE LIKE
IT. NAOW —

SALOON



THE AUDACITY OF
THE FIEND! EVEN
THOUGH I AM HERE
HE CONTINUES WITH
HIS FOUL PLAN! THIS
MUST BE STOPPED!

TAKE THAT LARIAT
OFFEN ME AN' I'LL
TAKE THIS PURTY
GAL ALONG AS
HOSTAGE!



RECKON I SHOWED YOU
WHUT A MILKTOAST THET THAR
CALLOUSED CAL IS, MY
PURTY!

MAGIC! REMOVE THAT!
TAKE THE FIEND AWAY! TO
THE ORIENT!



HEY, BETTY!
WHERE ARE
YOU?

BLAST THIS WAND! I
MEANT HIM! NOT HER!
BRING HER BACK AND
SEND HIM AWAY! TO THE ORIENT
WITH HIM



AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD —

ROY — WHERE
ARE WE? WHAT
HAPPENED?

YOU VANISHED —
AND THEN —

AND BACK IN AMERICA — IN A BAR —



A LITTLE MAN WITH
FEELERS? — WHAT
DID I SAY?

THE ANIMALS IN TECHNI-
COLOR WERE BAD ENOUGH —
BUT LITTLE MEN WITH
FEELERS — NO — NOO —
NOOO —



AT THE STATION — IT'S
TOO MUCH — I ALWAYS KNEW
I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN
RADIO — THEY TOLD ME
TELEVISION WAS MAD —
LITTLE MEN — PEOPLE
VANISHING — IT'S TOO
MUCH!



WHERE
AM I NOW
ON — BACK
IN THE
STUDIO —
BUT WHERE'S

NOW SEE WHAT
YOU'VE DONE!

VERY PROUD OF MY-
SELF, I AM! IT'S NOT
EVERY GNOME THAT
CAN SEND A MAN INTO
THE HINTERLANDS
AS EASILY AS THAT!



LADIES AND GENTLE-
MEN, DUE TO CIRCUM-
STANCES BEYOND OUR
CONTROL, WE



WHAUGHT — IT'S POWERFUL
HOT HERE. LEAVE IT TO A
WIZARD TO MAKE EVERYONE
AS UNCOMFORTABLE AS
POSSIBLE. WE NEED
A LITTLE RAIN TO COOL
THINGS OFF!

OOOO — YOU DID IT
AGAIN, GNORMAN — OOOFF —
THE RAIN —



WAND — LISTEN TO ME
CAREFULLY — I SAID RAIN!
NOT PAIN! RAIN!



IT'S
KNEW
D IN
ME
D—
PLE
OO

I KNEW IT—I KNEW IT
THEY SAID I'D FLIP MY WIG
IF I WENT INTO TELEVISION—IT'S
RAINING—RAINING **INDOORS**—
HA—HA, I'M A LITTLE
WATER LILY—

WHUHT —
THIS IS A LITTLE
MORE RAIN
THAN I
MEANT!

WAND, LISTEN TO ME
CAREFULLY—JUST
ENOUGH TO COOL
US OFF—NOT A
TORRENT—

LOOK! —
NOW IT'S
SNOWING!

HERE
I NOW
—BACK
THE
UDIO—
PUT
HERE'S

REFUL
TO A
YONE
AS
OL

SNOW—**BEAUTIFUL SNOW**—
JUST WHAT WE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS
SHOW A SUCCESS—AND THIS IS THE DAY
THE NEW SPONSOR IS WATCHING!

LITTLE MAN WITH THE BENT WAND —
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT REAL — I
KNOW YOU'RE JUST IN MY HEAD —
BUT I'M GOING TO KILL YOU ANYWAY —

SNOW—NO—
NO SNOW!

GNORMAN, LOOK
OUT—THE
DIRECTOR
LOOKS MAD!

LOOKS MAD? I **MUST** BE
MAD—**NUTS—BATTY**—LITTLE
MAN—COME WITH ME, I WANT TO
SHOW YOU TO MY ANALYST!

LET ME DOWN—
PUT ME DOWN—
WAND, MAKE
HIM PUT ME
DOWN!

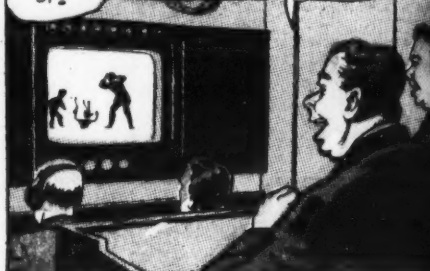
BE CAREFUL,
GNORMAN —



I DIDN'T MEAN SO FAR DOWN! WAND, USE DISCRETION WILL YOU?

OH - MY DOCTOR WILL NEVER BELIEVE THIS - A LITTLE MAN STICKING OUT OF THE FLOOR!

IN THE SPONSOR'S BOOTH - HO HO - HA - HA - OOOH - MY SIDES - OOOH, I CAN'T LAUGH ANYMORE! THIS IS THE FUNNIEST SHOW I'VE EVER SEEN - I MUST SIGN IT UP!



AND IN THE STUDIO THE POLICE ARRIVE IN ANSWER TO FRANTIC PHONE CALLS -

I DID - IN THERE - THE STUDIO HAS GONE MAD!

WHO SENT OUT THE RIOT CALL?



AND IN CHINA - BUT THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING, DON'T YOU SEE HOW ABSURD IT IS?

WHICH IN YOUR STRANGE TONGUE MEANS - TELL IT TO THE JUDGE!



GNORMAN! THIS IS SERIOUS - IF WE GET ARRESTED THERE'LL BE LOTS OF TROUBLE -

WAND LEND US WINGED FEET THAT WE MAY DEFEAT OUR PURSUERS -

GEE - WINGS LIKE MERCURY - C'MON GNORMAN, THOSE COPS LOOK TOUGH!

WE SHALL LEAVE THEM BEHIND - AWAY - LET US FLY LIKE THE WIND -



-HA
N'T
EST
N IT

THIS IS LIKE MY ESCAPE FROM THE
RAVENING THREE HEADED MONSTER
IN THE BLACK FOREST MANY YEARS
AGO. COME, BOBBY, I CAN TELL WHEN
I'M NOT WELCOME!

N ANS-
ENT
RIOT

CLANCY — YOU DO
SEE WHAT I SEE
DON'T YOU, LAD?

AYE MURPHY, THAT I
DO — BUT I DON'T BELIEVE
IT!

HMMMM — GUESS
WE HAVEN'T GOT
OUR SEA LEGS YET
BUT COME ON
ANYWAY

BUT WE'RE
UPSIDE DOWN!

A LITTLE MORE SPEED
LADDY, THOSE MEN IN
UNIFORM LOOK VERY
AGGRAVATED! —

GNORMAN —
LOOK OUT — IN
FRONT OF YOU!

THAT DOES IT! THIS IS THE END! — I MAY AS
WELL BLOW MY BRAINS OUT!

STOP! HALT!
I SAY!

SORRY LADDY —
DIDN'T SEE YOU!

OOOH! ALL THOSE
RECORDS!

DON'T TRIP
OVER THOSE
RECORDS!

CRASH



LOOK OUT, CLANCY—

TOO LATE—LOOK—
THEY'RE FLYING OUT THE WINDOW—



GNORMAN! WE FORGOT
THAT POOR ACTOR YOU
SENT TO CHINA! YOU'D
BETTER GET HIM
BACK!

AN ACTOR! WHUSHT—
YOU MEAN THAT WAS ALL
PLAY ACTING? WHY
DIDN'T YE TELL ME?
TO THINK I'D BRING
HARM TO AN ACTOR!



TO THINK OF IT—ME, WHO TROD
THE BOARDS WITH WILL, BRING-
ING HARM TO A FELLOW
THESPIAN!

WILL
WHO?



WILL WHO? DON'T TELL ME
THAT YOU MODERNS HAVE FORGOTTEN
THE IMMORTAL BARD? AH, WELL,
FLEETING IS FAME 'TO WORK!
WAND!, SEND THAT ACTOR
BACK FROM WHENCE
HE CAME!

THERE'S MY
HOUSE! WE'RE
HOME!



JEEPERS—WITHALL
THE EXCITEMENT, I
FORGOT ALL ABOUT MY
COMPOSITION. I HAVE TO
WRITE, ON TELEVISION!
GNORMAN, I'LL SEE
YOU TOMORROW!

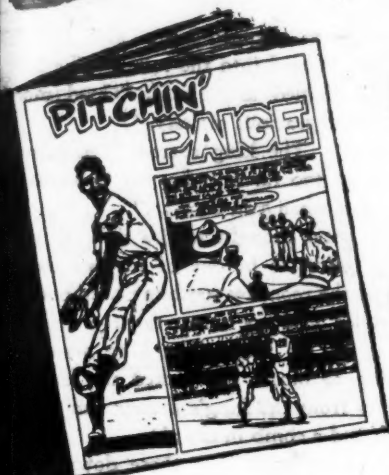
AWEEL, I THINK
I HAVE SOME
HOMEWORK TO DO
MYSELF TO CATCH
UPON THESE
MODERN TIMES!

NEXT DAY, IN CLASS — BOBBY, YOURS WAS, BY FAR,
THE MOST IMAGINATIVE AND INTERESTING COMPO-
SITION HANDED IN. I LIKED THE PREPOSTEROUS IDEA
OF YOU GETTING AS SMALL AS
AN ELECTRON — VERY GOOD!



PREPOSTEROUS?—SHE
SHOULD KNOW—

Look For It



COMING IN THE
MAY ISSUE OF

TRUE
SPORT
PICTURE STORIES

A 12-PAGE STORY
ON THE LIFE OF

Satchel Paige

PLUS ... Exciting stories on the lives of RITCHIE ASHBURN—"The Fastest Man in Baseball"—and "PANCHO" GONZALES, National Singles Tennis Champion. AND ... the inside dope on SIAMESE BOXING plus the zany adventures of SLEWFOOT JONES, Baseball's miracle screwball!

At your
favorite
newsstand
on or about
March 18th!

10¢



"WELL, I'LL BE HANGED!"

It might never have happened at all if the king had not arisen from the wrong side of the bed. But he did. And because he did, he stubbed his toe on the cold floor. Roaring with rage he stumbled around his huge, drafty bedroom. His eyes filled with tears from the pain in his big toe.

Because of this he did not see the door open. He walked right into it and banged his forehead. This time his roar could be heard all over the palace. The servant who had brought him his breakfast scurried and hid behind the door as the king stamped up and down yelling at the top of his lungs.

Next door, the queen thought, oh dear, he got out of bed on the wrong side. Now everything will go wrong all day long. Down the hall his men at arms looked around uneasily. They knew this boded no good for them. His voice could be heard way down in the cellar where the cooks were busy. One of the cooks looked up and said, "We'd better cook only the things he likes today!" The others nodded.

Way off at the far end of the kitchen, on top of a rafter, the jester stirred in his sleep and opened his eyes. He heard the roaring mumble of the king's voice and thought, humph, he's in a bad mood, perhaps I'd better go and try to cheer him up.

Up in the royal bedroom the king was sitting on the edge of his bed nursing his toe. He thought bitterly, what's the use of being a king if your toe hurts? He eased his toe into his slippers and seeing the servant with his breakfast for the first time he said, in a low roar, "What are you waiting for? Bring me my breakfast, instant!"

Even when he had eaten his breakfast he was still surly. A tap came at the door. He said, "Come in, or go away, don't stand there

knocking and banging at my door. It's enough to give one a headache. Can't the king even have quiet? Is that too much to ask?"

The door snapped open and the jester popped his head into the room. The bells on his cap jingled as he said, "Good morning your most gracious majesty."

"Aha!" The king roared. "Sarcasm, eh? You'll go too far one day my precious jester . . . and when you do . . ."

The jester thought with a sigh, oh yes, today is going to be one of his bad days. He entered the room by tumbling head over heels. He rolled halfway across the room and then sprang to his feet. The king wasn't even looking at him! He picked up some toilet articles from the king's dresser and juggled a brush and a comb in the air.

The king said, "Put those down before I have you boiled in oil! How dare you touch my things? Is nothing sacred in these benighted days?"

The queen scurried into the room timidly and said, "Sire, the envoy from the court of Spain awaits."

"He can await and await! I'll not see him till I feel like it!"

The jester thought, oh . . . this is bad . . . this can mean war. I must do something to make his majesty laugh. He stood on his hands and walked across the room. The queen pretended to be very amused and clapped her hands and laughed.

"Stop behaving like a fool and walk on your feet the way men were meant to!" The king said. He scowled at the queen. Then he turned his scowl towards the jester.

The jester leaped to his feet and said, "Sire, a jape! A very merry jape! On my life

"ape fit for a king!"

"What?" The scowl was, if anything, worse.

Splitting his face in a grin the jester said, "Your highness, two forks met on a table and one said to the other, 'Who was that lady I saw you with last night?'"

Before the jester could go on the king muttered, "That was no lady, that was my knife!" Pah . . . I heard that when I was a toddler!"

Throwing his robe around him the king stalked from the room. The queen waited till he was gone then she whispered to the jester, "Rack your brains, my funny fellow, if you do not make his majesty laugh, I fear for the sake of the mission of the courtier from the king of Spain."

The jester nodded. "Yes, milady, I know. I will think of something. But haste, we'd better be there when he greets the envoy."

They hurried down the cold stone steps of the castle as if the queen were just the wife of a grumpy old man . . . as she was.

In the ante room the court guards stood stiffly at attention even though the king had passed them and was now enthroned in the reception room. The envoy was bowing to the king as they entered the room.

The envoy said, "And so, most Imperial Highness, my liege lord would like your assurance that there will be no war."

The jester could see from the expression on the king's face that the answer was going to be the wrong one. Without thinking, he leaped onto a table, grabbed a long tapestry and swung like an ape across the long room. The king was startled and looked up as the jester let go of the tapestry and landed in a ball at his feet.

The jester split his face in a grin and said, "A word in thy ear!"

The king bent his head down and the jester whispered a piece of malicious gossip in his ear. Ordinarily the king was amused by court gossip. But not today, not on the day that he had arisen on the wrong side of the bed. Oh no indeed.

He said, "That is a lie. I will have no liars

in my court! Jester, you have told your last lie! I will make an example of you!"

The jester shivered. He had never seen the king so angry. He waited.

The king said, "This is my pronouncement, my little liar! The next utterance that comes from your mouth, if it be a truth, you will be burned! If you lie, you will be hanged!"

Bending over till his face was on a level with the little jester, the king scowled and beetled his eyebrows. "What say you to that, jester? Have you a jape for me now?"

The queen held her breath. She knew that the king would feel bound to keep his word even though the minute he felt better he'd regret having done away with his favorite jester.

The words of the king were whispered across the long room. The guards picked them up and repeated them to the serving girls. The girls sent the message down the long corridors. Soon even the fourth assistant cook, the one who did nothing but peel potatoes knew what the king had said.

The whole castle seemed still as if it too was holding its breath.

Back in the long room the jester smiled at the king. Everyone held their breath, was the jester going to laugh in the face of sure death?

Yes! For what he said to the king was, "Well, I'll be hanged!"

The king roared, "Take him away! Have him . . ." Then the court knew why the jester had smiled, for the king said, almost to himself, "But hold . . . if I have him hanged he will have been telling the truth . . . and should have been burned at the stake. If I burn him he will have been telling a lie and should have . . ."

"Ho ho . . . you are a clever one, my little jester. Come sit on the arm of my throne." The king smiled. "Now then, envoy, what was it you were saying?"

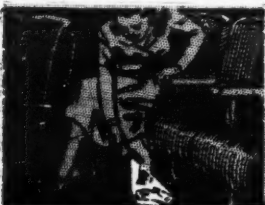
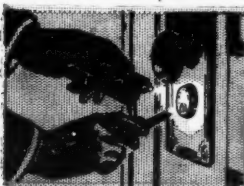
The queen let the breath out of her pent-up lungs. All was well. But still, you see, it all would never have happened if the king hadn't gotten out of the wrong side of the bed that morning.

Most Amazingly Convenient POCKET LIGHTER FOR MEN FOR WOMEN

CIGARETTE
LIGHTER
FLASHLIGHT
KEY CHAIN

ALL
IN
1

ACTUAL
SIZE



*Beautiful Plastic Case in
Simulated Marble Design*

INITIAL*
IN GOLD
AT NO
EXTRA
COST



Here's the snappiest, most complete lighter combination you've ever seen! Imagine — lighter, flashlight and keychain **ALL IN ONE UNIT**. Handy, convenient, easy to carry. No more fumbling for matches, keys, etc. Easy to find keyholes in the dark! Beautiful, streamlined case of mottled plastic. Your own initial in gold imprinted on case. Makes ideal gift. A truly sensational bargain value with your initial in gold only \$1.98.

A TRULY SENSATIONAL
BARGAIN VALUE WITH
YOUR INITIAL
IN GOLD

Only \$1.98

3 in 1 lighter combination easily fits in palm of hand. Lighter set snugly in base of case. Flashlight complete with battery. Beaded keychain fastens securely to top of unit. Unbelievably light in weight. IMAGINE all these features offered at amazingly low price of only \$1.98. Order TODAY.

SEND NO MONEY — 7 Day Trial

Just fill in coupon below. On arrival deposit only \$1.98 plus C.O.D. postage with postman. Use 7 days. If not delighted return for money back. (Send cash, we pay postage.)

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

***Be Sure To Send
Initial To Be
Imprinted
In Gold**

**HENRY SENNE &
CO. Dept. 352D,
1101 N. Paulina St.
Chicago 22, Illinois**

HENRY SENNE & COMPANY
Dept. 352D, 1101 N. Paulina St.
Chicago 22, Illinois

Please rush 3 in 1 lighter combination at once. I'll pay postman \$1.98 plus C.O.D. postage on arrival. If not delighted I may return within 7 days for money back. (Cash with order, WE pay postage.)

☐ Send C.O.D. plus postage.
☐ Cash enclosed. Send postpaid.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY ZONE STATE

**INITIAL TO BE
IMPRINTED
(Circle Choice)**

A B C D
E F G H
I J K L
M N O P
Q R S T
U V W X
Y Z

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT,
HOPE HAS AN
INTELLIGENT IDEA!"

says CROSBY

CROSBY:

Folks, this is fantastic, but old Hope has a great idea. He thinks *everybody* ought to give U. S. Savings Bonds for Christmas presents!

HOPE:

Thanks for the kind words, son. But no kidding, ladies and gentlemen, those Bonds are sensational. They're appropriate for *anyone* on your list. On Christmas morning, nothing looks better in a stocking—except maybe Dorothy Lamour.

CROSBY:

Old Ski Nose is correct. And don't forget how easy it is to buy bonds—you can get 'em at *any* bank or post office.

HOPE:

How about it, Mr. and Mrs. America? This Christmas let's *all* give U. S. Savings Bonds!



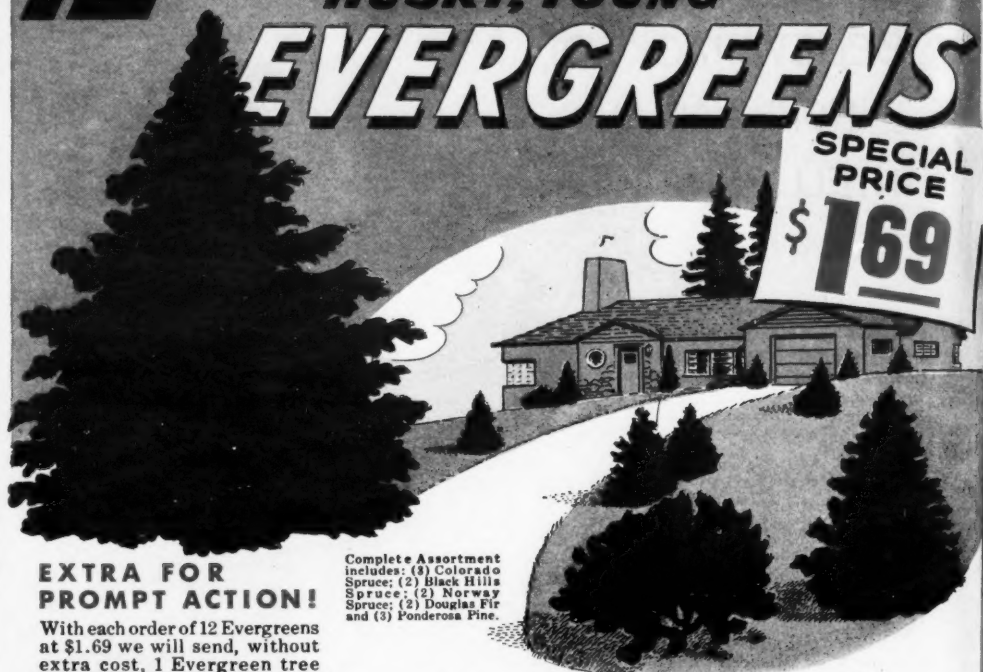
Give the Finest Gift of all...
U.S. SAVINGS BONDS



Contributed by this magazine in co-operation with the Magazine
Publishers of America as a public service.

12 BEAUTIFUL HUSKY, YOUNG EVERGREENS

**SPECIAL
PRICE**
\$1.69



EXTRA FOR PROMPT ACTION!

With each order of 12 Evergreens at \$1.69 we will send, without extra cost, 1 Evergreen tree (Pyramid Arborvitae). 2 years old. Average 6' in height. Grows in pyramid shape and keeps nice green color all winter. Adaptable to shearing for any desired height and width. Often seen as foundation and doorway planting.

Complete Assortment includes: (1) Colorado Spruce; (2) Black Hills Spruce; (2) Norway Spruce; (2) Douglas Fir and (3) Ponderosa Pine.

Added Charm the Year Round

SPECIAL BARGAIN OFFER

**MICHIGAN BULB CO., Dept. EP-1519,
GRAND RAPIDS 2, MICHIGAN**

Gentlemen:

Rush me your Special Pre-Season Evergreen Bargain. . . 12 Inspected Evergreens for ONLY \$1.69 plus Pyramid Arborvitae at no extra cost. When package arrives I will pay postman ONLY \$1.69 plus C.O.D. postage. If not delighted after I examine them I can return for money back. (Save Money. Send cash with order, we pay postage.)

☐ Cash enclosed
Michigan Bulb pays
postage

☐ Send C.O.D.
I'll pay \$1.69 plus
C.O.D. postage

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Dot your landscape with gracious Easy-to-Plant Evergreens. Enjoy the year 'round color and beauty of young trees. This Amazing Pre-Season Evergreen Bargain includes enough husky trees to landscape the average home. Yes, 12 Assorted young Evergreens for ONLY \$1.69! Each tree at least 2 years old. Approximately 3' to 4' high. Majestic Evergreens grow without fuss in every climate. All trees inspected by the Dept. of Agriculture. Sent labeled and ready for planting. Now completely landscape your home with Inspected Evergreens for ONLY \$1.69. Limited Supply at this Bargain Price.

SEND NO MONEY—Examine at Our Risk

Just send name and address. When Evergreens and bonus Arborvitae arrive pay postman ONLY \$1.69 plus C.O.D. postage. Examine your Evergreens carefully. If not delighted return for money back. (Save Money. Send \$1.69 with order and we pay postage.) Order NOW!

MICHIGAN BULB CO.
DEPT. EP-1519, GRAND RAPIDS 2, MICHIGAN

S
SPECIAL
OFFER
9

and

Plant
or and
e-Sea-
husky
es, 12
\$1.69!
nately
with-
ected
d and
scape
ONLY
Price.

Risk

ns and
\$9 plus
ully. If
Money.
NOW!

C O.
MIGAN

